

Editorial

Two years since our last issue of *Edentata*, we are happy to resume with the ESG Newsletter, featuring four very interesting articles, together with a number of news and publication announcements that we think may be of interest to the members of our specialist group. We thank Brazil's National Research Council (CNPq), through its Biodiversity Task Force (*Grupo de Trabalho em Biodiversidade*), for the support provided to continue with the publication of this newsletter.

In the previous issue, we invited members to participate in the 1996 IUCN Red List process, reviewing for the first time the status of every mammal species in the world. We received contributions from a few members of the group, which resulted in the analysis of all 29 edentate species. We are especially grateful to Kent Redford, Daniel Brooks, Anthony Rylands and Augustin Iriarte. The results, incorporated in the *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* compiled by Jonathan Baillie and Brian Groombridge, raised from six to eight the number of threatened species: *Bradypus torquatus* (endangered), *Chaetophractus nationi* (vulnerable), *Chlamyphorus retusus* (vulnerable), *Chlamyphorus truncatus* (endangered), *Dasybus pilosus* (vulnerable), *Priodontes maximus* (endangered), *Tolypeutes tricinctus* (vulnerable), and *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* (vulnerable). Not a single species was considered critically endangered. Two species were classified under the lower risk, near threatened category, while six were considered by the experts as not having enough data to permit an adequate assessment of their status in the wild. The process will, however, continue, on a periodic basis. We thus urge our members to keep sending suggestions, information and analyses that can contribute to the refinement and updating of the list, using the ESG as the principal venue for the new proposals.

We continue hoping we can expand membership of the ESG, particularly through the incorporation of Latin America's new generation of scientists and conservationists who are increasingly focusing their work on edentates. We encourage current and prospective members to supply us with the information requested on the last page of the current issue, so that we can update our current directory and expand our network of experts. Members and other subscribers are also asked to send us addresses of individuals or institutions you think would appreciate receiving *Edentata*.

Hope to hear from you all!

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